Asking AI Questions (Prompting)

Objective

Generate answers from AI by practising formulating prompts.

Instructions

1. Tell and write on the board 'People only use 10 percent of their brains'. Then allow students to use ChatGPT to explore this statement.

2. Tell students to find the origin or scientific consensus on this idea by asking AI. Involve students in this by having them come up with questions for ChatGPT.

3. Asked students whether they got the answer that they wanted.

    o Have students put sample answers up onto a sharing platform (Google Docs, Padlet, Teams).

    o Take a sample of the AI-generated answers that are unrelated to the topic and ask students to rephrase the question, by using the tips *'How to Prompt for AI' (Handout.1).*

    o Ask students to rewrite their questions and re-enter them into AI.

4. Ask students to share their answers and compare the differences between the first answer.

5. If time permits, the teacher can divide students into small groups and have them practice using topics from their field of study or giving ideas from the list *(Handout. 2).*

6. Ask students to reflect on their experience of asking AI questions and the answers they received.
    o What are the most difficult aspects of writing questions for AI?

    o How do you feel about the answers generated by AI?

Handout 1

How to Prompt for AI:

Tip 1: Be specific: Start with a concise overview of the answers you want from AI, followed by any particular details or constraints.

Example:

🔴 **Bad AI prompt:** Hi ChatGPT, tell me how the earth rotates. (Too vague)

🟢 **Good AI prompt:** Explain how the earth rotates in simple terms for a non-science major university student project, focusing on the steps involved and its relationships to the sun. (Clear and detailed)

Tip 2: Ask open-ended questions: these questions will allow you to take advantage of large data available to AI.

Example:

🔴 **Bad AI prompt: "**Is sleeping more than 8 hours good for you?"

🟢 **Good AI prompt: '**What are the pros and cons of sleeping more than 8 hours a day for university students?"

Tip 3: Include contextual information: Add some background to your question if you want more concise answers instead of vague responses. This will allow AI to tailor your response.

🔴 **Bad AI prompt:** "Create an invitation for my graduation lunch for November 26, at the Sheraton Hotel in Tsim Sha Tsui at 7 pm."

🟢 **Good AI prompt:** "I will have a graduation dinner celebration on November 26, at the Sheraton Hotel in Tsim Sha Tsui at 7 pm and the invite list is close friends and family. Write the graduation dinner invitation to be sent via email.

Tip 4: Create feedback loops: If AI does not create the exact response that you want, which is common for AI-generated content creation. You could re-prompt.

🔴 **Bad AI prompt:** "This is not the answer I want, stupid AI."

🟢 **Good AI prompt:** "You mentioned X, but I am looking for information on Y. Could you explain Y?"

Note: similar to spoken questions it requires practice. Don't give up because these tips are not a one-size-fits-all option for AI prompts.

Adapted from http://www. descript.com

Handout 2 List of misinformation

Save the Tree Octopus

Sunscreen causes skin cancer

Vaccines lead to autism

You should drink at least 8 glasses of water per day

Eating egg yolk is bad for you

Taking plenty of Vitamin C will help you prevent flu and colds

Climate change is not real because it is still cold in some places

The earth is flat